

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the title and have amended claims 1 and 3 to make minor grammatical changes. Claims 1-3 are currently pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner appears to have rejected claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated over Arai (U.S. Patent No. 5,822,346); and rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Arai. Applicants traverse the rejections applied to the claims in the pending Office Action and the objection to the specification, at least for the following reasons.

Applicants have amended the title. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the specification.

In rejecting independent claim 1, the Examiner asserted that Applicants' recited drive current supply circuit is shown in Fig. 1 of Arai; that the recited first current mirror circuit corresponds to "Fig. 1, unit 14, 15, & 11" of Arai; that the recited two parallel lines correspond to "output of 10 or 11 & output of 14, 15 and 16" of Arai; that "said laser diode" of claim 1 corresponds to "Fig. 1, unit 1" of Arai; that the recited control circuit corresponds to "Fig. 1, unit 4, & especially 10, 11, 12 and 13 of Arai"; that the recited steady DC component corresponds to "read power current I_r " of Arai; and that the recited potential comprising a drive signal component added to said DC component when writing data corresponds to "Fig. 1, output of 10 to 13 are added" and "col. 5, line 25 to col. 6, line 63," of Arai.

In other words, the Examiner appears to be asserting that the device of Arai comprises a drive current supply circuit including a first current mirror circuit, and a control circuit, having: a first current mirror circuit having two parallel lines (10, 11, 14, 15, and 16), a laser diode (1)

being connected with one or the two parallel lines; and a control circuit (10, 11, 12, 13) connected with the other of the two parallel lines, with the control circuit controlling the current flowing in this line in accordance with a potential of this line, with this potential comprising a steady DC component when reading data, and with this potential comprising a drive signal component added to the DC component when writing data.

Applicants strenuously submit that, contrary to these assertions, Arai neither discloses nor suggests a current mirror circuit configured in the manner required by independent claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 and 3. A current mirror circuit, as can be understood with reference to, for example, the URL http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Current_mirror (printout of page from URL enclosed), includes a pair of transistors, with the gate (or base) of each transistor being connected to the gate (or base) of the other transistor. Consequently, circuit elements 10, 11, 14, 15, and 16 do not constitute such a current mirror structure. For example, element 14 of Arai relates to a current constant circuit, controlled by D/A converter 10, whereas a current mirror circuit provides mirror currents in two lines. Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, including the point that elements 14 and 15 of Arai do not provide mirror currents in their respective lines, Applicants submit that the asserted components of Arai do not correspond to the current mirror structure (first current mirror circuit) recited in Applicants' independent claim 1 or the current mirror structure (second current mirror circuit) recited in Applicants' dependent claim 3. Applicants also wish to point out that Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Official Notice taken by the Examiner in the pending Office Action.

For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the art rejections applied to the pending claims.

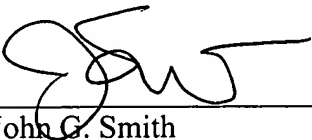
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants undersigned representative to expedite prosecution. A favorable action is awaited.

Except for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. § 1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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